They Started on Nov. 22, and Brought Mos of Their Wealth in the Form of Brafts-All Are Going Back-They Think the Govern-ment Axpedition Will Beach the Yukon.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 28.-The steamer Alki arrived this afternoon from Skagway, bringing some returned miners from the Klondike. They left Dawson on Nov. 22 and made the trip through in twenty-five days, coming over the Dyea trail, encountering snow in places sth of four to six feet, but on some of the lakes the wind had swept it clear, making travel much easier. They used dogs and sleds, a num-ber of them bringing the dogs through Seattle.

They said they returned at this season of the year because of the scarcity of provisions. No suffering bad yet occurred in any of the mining camps, but short rations were becoming the rule and all provident miners were harboring their supplies as much as possible.

N. Dobson of Scattle, who is among the arriwals, said: "We did not bring out much gold, because it was all we wanted to do to pack out our grub and blankets without weighing our ves down with gold, hence we converted gold into drafts and brought paper with us.

"It is impossible to tell the amount, but all appear to be well fixed in this respect. The rich, and the only trouble is the scarcity of pro visions, and this scarcity will result in a great many mines closing down for the winter that would have been in operation had grub been

"A strike against a reduction of wages is or and the miners will succeed. The old price is \$12 to \$15 per day, and mine owners have been endeavoring to cut it down to \$10, but they will not succeed. This does not affect those who are working on lays or working their own mines. We are all perfectly satisfied with the country, and there is not a man in the crowd that came out when I did but intends to return this winter or next spring. There is plenty of gold. and all have done well this season. We don't look for any suffering for want of provisions before March or April, and not then if the Gov. ernment relief expedition gets through. I can see no reason why a well-organized expedition by the Government, under the command of an experienced army officer should not get through as readily as a party of returning miners. There is nothing to prevent them.

At this point of the interview an orderly from Capt. Robinson's headquarters put in an ap pearance, and requested a talk for the benefit of Gen. Merriam, which was cheerfully granted. The returning passengers of the Alki are W. D. Cleveland, S. W. Fox, W. E. Knowles, C. Lengman, B. Murin, D. C. Campbell, J. J. McKay and wife, Dan Egan, W. A. Kelstling, B. Anderson, A. Hedstrong, W. Falker, J. D. Barnes, H. Dubson, George Munroe, S. W. Foote, J. Dubsvinky, E. A. Sather, W. J. Christie, M. B. Crane, C. J. Christianeen, E. L. Reanuld, T. H. Mallory. Con O'Brien, Ed Barrington, Jim Keating, and A. L. Cheney.
J. J. McKay and his wife made the trip out from Dawson City to tide water in twenty-five days, passing over 200 people on the way up granted. The returning passengers of the Alk

from Dawson City to tide water in twenty-five days, passing over 200 people on the way up the river. Mrs. McKay stood the trip better than many of the men. They will spend the remainder of the winter at Tacoma, returning to Dawson in the spring. Dan Egan, known to the sporting world as the Montana "Kid," and W. A. Keistling say they made the trip from Dawson to Dyea in twenty-three and a half days. Egan says he is the bearer of an important message from Dawson City, for which he is to receive \$1.000 for delivery on Puget Sound within thirty-five days after starting. He has won the money, and has four days to spare. It is intimated that not over \$150.000 in gold dust and nuggets was brought. G. H. Mallory of Spokane brought the largest individual amount, having \$8,000.

of Spokane brought the largest individual amount, having \$8,000.

Over 2,000 men have gone from Dawson to Fort Yukon, where there is an unlimited supply of provisions. No sickness is reported at lawson, and everybody there is in much better circumstances than their friends on the outside imagine. A large number of letters were brought out by Dobson and others for newspapers and private individuals

The steamer City of Scattle, salling for Alaska tonight, carries away about 300 passengers and alarge amount of freight. This is the largest number of passengers from Scattle since the great stampede in August and September, and is a fair indication of what is to follow. This steamer anticipates making three round trips per month, and has a capacity for 400 passengers. Four other Alaska steamers are in port, and will be receiving freight and passengers tomorrow.

MR. SEFION IN WASHINGTON.

The Canadian Minister Will Confer with Alge-About Relief for the Klondikers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.-Mr. Clifton Sefton the Canadian Minister of the Interior, and Mr J. A. McKenna, one of the officials of his de partment, did not have their expected conference to-day with Secretary Alger about joint action on the part of Canada and the United seekers. They paid a social call on the Secre tary at his residence, where he is confined by an attack of the grip, and had luncheon with him

attack of the grip, and had luncheon with him.

To morrow Mr. Sefton and Mr. McKenna will have the first formal conference with Gen. Alger. It will be attended by Mr. Boyle of Woodstock, Can., who is organizing a relief expedition to carry sixty tons of provisions to the Klondike. He wants the United States to coperate with him in sending 150 tons. Mr. Boyle will use collie dogs to haul his slede, and has secured an engine which, he says, will level the ice hummocks on the Alaskan rivers and thus make a smooth track for the sled trains.

HIS WIFE CHARGED WITH MURDER Reason to Believe That the Negro Butler Was

James Butler, the negro who was found dead in his flat at 221 West Eighteenth street on day morning under circumstances which led the police of the West Twentieth street station to arrest his widow, Piecaleur Butler, did not die a natural death. This much was practically determined last night by Coroner's Physician Schultze, who made an autopey upo

Butler's body at the Morgue. When the examination of the body was con pleted, Dr. Schultze went to the West Twentieth treet station and reported that he had found all of Butler's vital organs in a normal state. and had found no sign that Butler had come to his death by violence. He was inclined to be lieve that polson might have caused the death. and he had taken the stomach away for a chem-

and he had taken the stomach away for a chemical examination.

He advised the police to go ahead with their work upon the theory that a murder had been committed and asked them to send to him the partiy empty whiskey bottle that had been found on the table beside the dead man and to hunt for any other things that might contain polson. The police found in the rooms a pill box containing four or five pills and a small vial of some liquid which smells like oil of sandal wood, and these will be delivered to the Coroners' office with the whiskey bottle.

Mrs. Butler was formelly charged with homicide when arraigned in Jefferson Market Court yesterday and committed without bail until today. The police say they have discovered a number of things which seem to indicate that she killed her husband.

CENTENABIAN TO LEAD THE DANCE

It Will Be at McQuillau's Birthday Party, and his Sister. Who Is OI, Will So His Partner.

SOUTHOLD, L. I., Dec. 28 .- Nicholas McQuilian will be 100 years old on Jan, 1, and in honor of the event residents of this and neighboring villages will gather at the residence of Joseph Thompson, his nephew, to do honor to the occasion. Mr. McQuillan will dance a reel with his sister, who is 91 years old. Mr. McQuillan is a native of Ireland, but came

to this country in early life, and has resided hereabouts for half a century or more. He is a weaver, and being hale and hearty and in full possession of his faculties he still spends a good deal of time at the loom in the basement of Mr. Thompson's house. He has woven many thousands of yards of rag carpet, His syesight syet so good that he can see to read without glasses.

glasses. Mrs. Ann Thompson, who is to be the centemarian's partner in the reel, is as spry as a woman of 50 years. Her face is unwrinkled.

Reciprocal Tariff Agreements. WASHINGTON, Doc. 28 .- Sir Julian Pauncefot id a personal visit to the State Department to-day and opened negotiations with John A. Kasson, the Reciprocity Commissioner appointscason, the Reciprocity Commissioner appoint-ed by President McKinley, for accurring agree-ments for reciprocal tariff exchanges between the United States and the British West Indies. Similar agreements were made by the Govern-ments of the United States and Great Britain under the Harrison Administration but were shregated under the terms of the Wilson-Gor-man teriff sets.

FOR A NEW NAVAL ACADEMY.

lectorelt tubults a Plan for the Reconstr

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 .- Assistant Secretary ?cosevelt's communication to the Secretary of the Navy, mention of which was made in THE Sun this morning, urging the construction of new buildings at the Naval Academy to take the place of the tumble-down structures which have been abandoned recently, tells the condition of things at Annapolis in Mr. Roosevelt's charac teristic style. He refers to the abandonment of several decrepit structures and the destruction cadets to recite in a loft partitioned into class

rooms by canvas sails.
"I deem it, therefore, of the utmost impor-tance," says Mr. Roosevelt. "that Congress should be asked not only to relieve the immediate and pressing necessities of the academy, but to relieve them in such a manner as to pre-pare the way for a general scheme of rebuilding the academy on a coherent and well-thought-out plan such as that which I herewith submit. It would take a number of years to rebuild the academy on this pian, and although it would be to the advantage of the service and in the end also economically advantageous to rebuild it in three or four years, yet, if necessary double or treble this time could be taken, and the expense thus distributed over so long a term that after the first year it would be but slight. When this plan has at last been carried out, therefore, the Naval Academy will be a coherent whole of which each part will be perfect both in itself and in relation to the other parts. We shall then have a maval academy not extravagantly built, made primarily for use and not show, and yet one in which the nation can take the heartiest pride, because it will be in overy way a fitting school for such a naval service as ours. academy on this pian, and although it would

take the heartiest pride, because it will be in every way a fitting school for such a haval service as ours.

"The immediate and pressing needs are an armory, a beathouse, and a power house, together with the grading thus made necessary, the rebuilding of the officers' quarters rendered necessary by putting the armory where it should be, and the dreaging and building of a sea wall so as to provide for the basin in which the training ship and torpedo hoats should lie."

Mr. Hooseveli's estimates for carrying out these projects amount roughly to \$1,100,000. In conclusion he says:

"While it is not necessary now definitely to adopt this general scheme, I vet very urgently recommend that it be so adopted by the department and that every effort be made to induce. Congress in its wisdom to consider it as the scheme which would ultimately be embodied in the construction of the new Naval Academy. I have been carefully over it with Capt. Cooper and the architect, Mr. Flagg. I heartily commend it for its simplicity, dignity, and adaptation to the practical needs of the institution."

GAGES OFFER TO RESIGN.

If It Was Made It Was Only a Bluff Asswe to His Proc-Silver Critics.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 .- As a result of the attacks on his financial policy by Senators Wol cott and Hansbrough and other bimetallists and free silverites, Secretary Gage offered to resign from the Cabinet. He did this at a visit to the him that the resignation was not desired, and treated lightly the criticism that had led to the proposition. It is known that Secretary Gage did not offer his resignation very seriously and that he is not greatly disturbed by the attacks which have been made upon him on account of his remarks to the House Banking and Currency Com mittee on bimetallism and the gold standard. He proposed to give up his portfolio for the sake of the effect his proposition would have on his

of the effect his proposition would have on his critics, and it is said that Mr. Gage is not averse to having the fact of his offer known.

A Government official who is well informed in the matter said that there was no possibility of a change in the Cabinet as a result of the present controversy. No other result of the Secretary's offer to resign could have been expected, he said. The President would not blame the Secretary of the Treasury for assuming that international bimetallism, considering the recent failure of the American bimetallic commissioners in Europe, is not a factor to be considered in the proposed revision of the currency laws.

The subject of the profered resignation was mentioned at the meeting of the Cabinet this morning. Prior to the meeting the report that the resignation had been offered was not disputed, but afterward it was denied. The President would make no statement in the matter, but it was said that he refused to confirm the recort. Secretary Porter denied that it was true.

The explanation which some outsiders give of

The explanation which some outsiders give o The explanation which some outsiders give of this disinclination to confirm the statement that the resignation was offered and rejected is that President McKinley does not wish to be credited with having openly indersed Secretary Gage's gold-standard ideas. They hold that he was elected on a platform with a himetallic plank, and he is said to consider it bad policy thus openly to indicate that the efforts for an international agreement are considered at an end.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 28.-Secretary Gage same here from Washington this afternoon to nepect the new revenue steamer McCullouch. He was accompanied by Capt. Shoemaker, and received on the cutter with the honors befitting his rank.

After a thorough inspection of the vessel the Secretary was entertained at luncheon by Capt. Hodgson. He left on the evening train for

FROM THE ORANGE FREE STATE Official Copy of the Extradition Treaty We

Mave Not Batified. WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 .- A bulky package was delivered at the State Department to-day, and the officials who opened it found a copy of the treaty of extradition with the Orange Free State inclosed in a beautifully illuminated case. It took some time to translate the accompany ing communication, which explained that the copy was the one which the Free State Govern nent would exchange for a copy from the United States to mark the ratification of the

United States to mark the ratification of the treaty. This extradition treaty was negotiated in the last Administration. It provided that natives of the United States might be extradited from this country for trial in the Orange Free State, a mutual concession of course being arranged in the convention.

The Senate promptly rejected the treaty on account of this unprecedented provision and also declined to ratify a treaty with the Argentine republic containing a similar clause. Mr. Cleveland declined to negotiate new treatles with the objectionable feature left out, and nothing was done until the McKinley Administration came in, when new agreements were made on the lines indicated by the Senate. The receipt of the copy from the Orange Free State marks the beginning of an official exchange of ratifications which cannot be completed until after the United States Senate approves the treaty.

THEY WANT MRS. KENNA'S OFFICE. Efforts to Oust Her from the Postmastershi

at Charleston, West Virginia. Washington, Dec. 28.-Senator Faulkner and

several Democrats of West Virginia are opposing the dismissal of Mrs. Kenna, widow of the late Senator Kenna, as Postmaster at Charleston in that State. Representatives Dora and Dovener of West Virginia visited the Presand Dovener of West Virginia Visited the Pres-ident to-day to urge the appointment of A. O. Petty, and it is said that, despite the threat of Senator Faulkner to fight the nomination in the Senate, Petty will be nominated. Senator El-kins indorses Petty and the Hepublican opposi-tion to the appointment is not strong. Mrs. Kenna is said to own property in West Virginia and in Washington and is not dependent on her present office for a livelihood.

New Commander for the Oregon WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 .- A change in the con and of the big battleship Oregon was or dered by the Navy Department to-day. Albert S. Barker, who has completed his tour of duty with the vessel, will be detached, with two months' leave, and Capt. Alexander H. McCormick, at present in Washington, wil succeed him. The Oregon is one of the fou first-class battleships, and has been on duty of the Pacific coast since she was built at Sar Francisco.

The torpedo boat Winslow will be placed in commission at Norfolk to-morrow. She will join the torpedo boat flotilla in the Gulf of Mexico. Lieut. John B. Bernadou is ordered to command her.

New Fourth-Class Postmasters.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.-Following are the changes in fourth-class Postmasters: New Jersey-Hamilton Square, Mercer county, 8, M. Bobbins. 8. M. Bobbins. New York—Bouckville. Madison county. Fred A. Parker; Mottville. Onondaya county. Mrs. Mary Evans; Reed Corners, Ontario county. Fred H. Harris.

Secretary Long Coming to New York

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28 .- The Hon. John D. ong, the Secretary of the Navy, will leave Washington to-morrow for New York, where he will spend several days. Mr. Thuodore Roosevelt will perform the duties of Secretary of the Navy in his absence.

Try Cimic. ure cure for rheumatiam. All druggists, \$1.--adv.

THE INDICTMENTS STAND.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY OLCOTT FOUND 18 MARKED FOR DISMISSAL.

ouldn't Mave It, and Overraled His Assist-nate-Se Hank President Gedney, Parson Potter's Burglar, and the Academy of De-

In Part I. General Sessions yesterday District Attorney Olcott found several cases on the calendar in which the indictment papers were marked for dismissal. The first was that of Eugene O'Hara, who was indicted for assault

"Do you know anything about that case]" asked the District Attorney, addressing Harry Unger, one of his assistants. "I don't," said Mr. Unger. "Some one-one

of the assistants directed me to place it on the

calendar. "Scratch it off," said Mr. Olcott, and Mr. Unger marked the O'Hara case off.
"What about this one!" said the District Attorney, referring to the case of William A.

Canfield, indicted on May 28 last for keeping a "Don't know anything about it," said Mr. Unger, "excepting that I was directed to put it

on the calendar."
"Scratch it off," remarked Mr. Olcott. "Who had that case!"
"Mr. Hardwicke has had the papers in, his office since Sept. 21." said Mr. Unger.
"Here is another," said the District Attorney. "This is doing business by the wholesale. I won't stand for it. Scratch it!"
And the case of Marie De Valette, indicted on April 15 for keeping a disorderly house in West Thirty-eighth street, was taken from the calendar.

Thirty-eighth street, was taken from the calendar.

Then came the case of Jacob Tannebaum, indicted for petty larceny and also for grand larceny on May 12. That was marked for dismissal, but it was not dismissed.

When Mr. Olcott found that Assistant District Attorney Osborne had marked for dismissal eleven indictments against Edward E. Gedney, he sent for Mr. Osborne and askd for an explanation:

"The evidence is insufficient," said Mr. Osborne. "The complainant also consented to a dismissal and two of the prosecution's witnesses are non-residents, one of them living in London."

"Well, that's the case of the President of the defunct North River Bank." said Mr. Olcott. "This man is charged with perjury and I will not consent to a dismissal of the indictment against him."

Other indictments marked for dismissal, but discovered by the District Attorney in time to prevent their dismissal, were against Claude S. Farrington, for embezzling the funds of the Academy of Design, and George Brummel, the private detective who was indicted on a charge of burglary on complaint of the Rev. D. C. Potter.

RESCUED THE FAIRWIND'S CREW. The Hattle May Was in Danger, Too, but She

HALIPAX, Dec. 28.—The three-masted schooner Hattie May arrived from New York to-day corn laden. Capt. Vance reports very heavy weather since he left New York on the 23d inst. The vessel was hove to for hours at a time, and for the greater part of the voyage she was running under double-reef canvas. On the 24th she met a heavy gale off Cape Cod. The schooner was thrown on her beam ends, the cargo shifted badly, an immense sea came on board, and the

badly, an immense sea came on board, and the boat was stove in. George Anderson, a sailor, had both hands badly frostbitten.

On the 25th, in latitude 41° 52°, longitude 88° 24°, the schooner Fairwind, from New York to Boston, was sighted flying signals of distress. She was unmanageable. Capt. Vance decided to attempt a rescue, although there was half a gale from the northwest and the seas were high at the time. The boat was launched, and with great difficulty the Fairwind was boarded. The entire crew was found to be in an exhausted condition from exposure. The men were all frost-bitten and had almost given up hope when the Hattie May hove in sight. Capt. Vance did everything for them he possibly could and made a prompt report to the American Consul, who will see that the men are looked after.

POTTERS' WAGES RAISED.

An Increase of 19 1-9 Per Cout, for Easters TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 28.—The Eastern pottery manufacturers and their employees reached ar understanding on the wages question to day and the workmen are to have an advance of 12^{1}_{2} per cent. immediately, which will restore their wages to what they were before the reduction in 1894. It is understood that the agreement is to hold good until Feb. 1, and in the meantime the Eastern and Western manufacturers and work Eastern and Western manufacturers and workmen will try to agree upon a uniform rate for
the whole country. The increase agreed upon
will raise the Eastern men's wages above those
paid in the West, and the workmen concede
that there must be an evening up.
To-day there was an amsigamation of the three
operative potters' associations into the Potters'
National Union, which now includes nearly all
the workmen in the various branches in the
whole country. A committee from the National
Union will confer with the manufacturers on
the wages question at once.

NO STRIKE AT FALL RIVER. Operatives in Pall River Meet to Discuss the

Proposed Wage Reduction. FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 28 .- The conference committee of the mill operatives was in session to-night to decide upon the course of ac tion to be taken in the proposed wage reduction The manufacturers have refused the proposition to postpone the reduction in wages until March and last night rejected a proposition to make the reduction 5½ per cent. and to hold a conference in March. The operatives must ac-cept the reduction of 111-9 per cent., which takes effect on next Monday, or strike. It was decided not to strike at present.

More Trouble with Canal Strikers.

UTICA, N. Y., Dec. 28.-There is a repetition of the troubles of last year in connection with the work on the Erie canal under the \$9,000,000 appropriation. Nearly all the contractors have trouble with the men in their employ. There are strikes along the big ditch each side of Uti-Yesterday Beckwith & Quackenbush, who ca. Yesterday Beckwith & Quackenbush, who have a contract east of Herkimer, began work. This morning twenty Americans and thirty Italians were at work, when a gang of 300 Italians appeared and patrolled the canal for miles, preventing a continuation of work. They say they will let no one work for 12½ cents per hour, as they demand 15. The contractors are firm.

Wants Office Boys to Form a Union.

Louis Goldberg, the 13-year-old boy who runs the office of the Brotherhood of Tailors in Meyer Schoenfeld's absence, wants the New York office boys to organize a union. He has so man; duties now that he has acquired a self-posses sion which makes visitors think him far older than he looks, and he can give walking delegate cards and spades in the way of getting rid of unwelcome intruders.

cards and spaces in the way of getting rid of unwelcome intruders.

"It would be pie for me to organize an office boys" union." said he yesterday. "I'm ready whenever they want me, and I think the messen-ger boys should come in too. There's thousands of office boys in New York and a lot of them are kicking. They say everybody bosses them."

Police Watching Striking Cigarette Girls. For the first time during the strike of th

cigarette makers at the factory of Seidenberg. Stiefel & Co., in East Sixty-third street, police were detailed to watch the factory yesterday. The strikers, especially the girls, were loud in their protestations that their pickets had never molested any one, but had confined themselves to trying to persuade "scabs" not to take their places. The police prevented the pickets from going too close to the building.

Reduction of Wages in Salem Cotton Mills. SALEM, Mass., Dec. 28 .- Notices were posted his morning at the Naumkeag Steam Cotton Mills announcing that beginning on Jun. 3 1898, there will be a cut of 10 per cent. in wages, More than 1,500 workers are affected. This reduction in wages is in line with that adopted by the manfacturers of cotton goods throughout New England.

Brickingers Strike on the Ivins Building Fresh trouble arose yesterday at the Ivins ouilding on Park row. The bricklayers, who building on Park fow. The oriektsyers, who were enabled to go to work on Mouday through the hiring of a non-union holsting engineer, quit at moon yesterday, domanding compensa-tion for the time they were in enforced idleness on account of the strike.

A Concession to Cather Guano.

TAMPICO, Mex., Dec. 28.-The Mexican Gov ernment has granted a concession to Luis Rossi and Eduardo Chesio, giving them the exclusive privilege of gathering gueno on the uninhabited islands of the Gulf of Mexico for ten years. The Government is to receive 60 cents per ton on all guano gathered.

JERSET TEACHERS DISAGREE.

Fight in the State Association Over the Management of the Bettrement Fund.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 28.-In the State Teachers' Association's meeting to-day there was a fight for the control of the management of the teachers' retirement fund. The votes on several motions were close, and the division was mainly between the male and female teachers.

Miss Elizabeth A. Allen of Hoboken was the champion of the latter. She was active in the organization of the retirement or pensio which is managed by the State Board of Education, the State School Superintendent, and two teachers named by the State Teachers' Association. Miss Allen and her friends have prepared amendments to the pension law, which will

three members.

The teachers' representatives are to be appointed by the President of the Teachers' Association, and Miss Allen created a stir last week at the Bergen County Teachers' Institute by starting a boom for Franklin Thorne of Paterson for the Presidency.

The President and other officers of the association are nominated by a nominating commitation are nominated by a nominating commit-tee, which, it is charged, enables the faction in power to perpetuate its control. Yeaterday a resolution was offered abolishing the nominat-ing committee so that the nominations could be made from the floor.

ing committee so that the nominations could be made from the floor.

Before a vote was taken on the resolution this morning Miss Allen and her followers defeated resolutions offered by H. E. Harris of Bayonne providing for the abolition of the association's committee on pensions and the appointment of trustees of the retirement fund, to be selected by members of the retirement fund. The vote was 52 to 54.

Then there was a lively discussion over the resolution of Mr. Thompson of Jersey City providing for the abolition of the nominating committee. Charges were made that some of the teachers were enemies of the retirement fund, but all the speakers professed friendliness to it, and Mr. Thompson finally withdrew his resolution.

and Mr. Thompson finally withdrew his resolution.

A resolution authorizing the President to appoint a committee to revise the constitution, in
order to end some of the troubles, was offered,
but was opposed by Miss Allen, who wanted the
committee named by the association. The
teachers voted 75 to 81 on the amendment, refusing to reflect on the President.

Charges were made on both sides that votes
were cast by persons not entitled to vote, but
the President held that the amendment was defeated and that a demand for a roll call came
too late. The resolution authorizing the President to appoint the revising committee was
adopted and the members will be named tomorrow.

adopted and the memors.

morrow.

Prof. Charles Jacobus of Springfield, Mass.,
made an address in which he advised the nassage of a law establishing the currew bell to
compol children to get off the streets in the
evening, and he suggested that later in the
evening the currew should be again sounded to
compel all others to go home.

NEW DRY DOCK LAUNCHED. It Is 270 Feet Long and Can Lift a Vessel o

The most powerful floating dock of the bal ance type in the port of New York was launched at the Eric Basin breakwater yesterday fore noon. The dock was built by William Gokey & Son, who also own the structure. It is 270 feet in length over the outriggers. It has a twelvefoot depth of hold and a lifting capacity of 2,500 tons. It will be operated independently of the Dry Dock and Repair Company, which controls and operates all the dry docks in the port capabe of hauling out a vessel of more than 1,000 tons. That concern is largely made up of Philadelphians, and they quietly secured a majority of the stock of the Balance dock and the Pike street docks, and then purchased the first mortgage on the Eric Basin chamber docks before any one knew what had happened. None of these docks nad ever made any money at the rate of 10 cents per ton per day, so the rate was increased to 16 cents per ton per day, so the rate was increased to 16 cents per ton per day. There was a good deal more when the smaller ship-repairing firms found themselves crippled by the Dry Dock Company. When they tried to secure a dock for bottom work they found them all "engaged." It this way all the large work fell into the hands of the Dry Dock and Repair Company. When the big Sound steamer Purlan went aground a couple of years ago the Fletcher Bros. of Hoboken, who always did the work of the Sound steamers, were unable to secure a dry dock, and were forced to allow the \$150.000 repair job togo to the Erie Basin yard, which is a branch of the Dry Dock and Repair Company. Since then the smaller repairers have been sending vessels of modrate size to Elizabethport, N. J., for docking, but it is inconvenient, and the towage is an item.

It was in order to meet this want of the independent ship repairers that William Gokey & Son built the dock launched yesterday.

The dry dock was built broadside on to the water on the edge of the breakwater, and at twenty minutes to 12 o'clock the last chock was cut away and the uge siructure slid down the ways and plunged into the waters of Gowanus Bay. The launching was hailed by hundreds of steam whistles and the cheers of a crowd of spectators. The launching was followed by a luncheon given to the visitors and workmen. Later the dock was towed into the Erie Basin and placed between the breakwater and Gokey's old dry dock, whe 2,500 tons. It will be operated independently of the Dry Dock and Repair Company, which con

PROGRESS OF THE GAS DEAL. The Consolidation of Interests Said to Have

Been Practically Effected. Conferences between the various interests concerned in the projected consolidation of the Equitable and East River Gas companies were held yesterday, and it was reported in Wall street that much progress had been made toward closing up the transaction by which the lately organized New Amsterdam Gas Company is to take over the two older companies In fact, it was understood that the deal had been practically settled, the matter having been hastened by the departure for Europe o

J. Pierpont Morgan, he having expressed a wish to have it closed up before he sailed. The chief Equitable interests, it was reported had consented to modifications of the original The chief administration of the original contract or to some concessions independent of that contract. Equitable stock, which sold on Monday at 266, closed yesterday at 250 bid. East River common stock, which has been selling around 74@75, advanced to 78½, and the preferred also advanced, 105 being bid for it with no offerings. New Amsterdam preferred, which has been ruling higher than East River common, closed at 71 bid, 75 asked. These fluctuations were looked upon as indicating a new adjustment, which will give to Equitable stockholders less and to East River stockholders more than was originally proposed. It was contended in brokerage circles that any modification of the original plan should result in the declaring off of all contracts that may have been made in the new securities. Adjourned meetings of the stockholders of the East River and New Amsterdam Gas companies, called to approve of the consolida-tion plan, are set for to-morrow. Originally called a month ago, they are understood to have been adjourned because the East River inter-ests, which had arranged the deal, discovered that the Equitable earnings were less than they had believed when they agreed upon the basis of exchange of securities.

PROSPERITY AT SCHENECTADY. The Higgest Heliday Trade in Years-In In-

crease of 50 Per Cent. SCHENECTADY, N. Y., Dec. 28.-Not since 1892 has there been so immense a holiday trade in this city as the present season. Thirty-five mer-chants here, on being interviewed to-day, declare that they have not had so much trade for this time of the year in five years. Most of

this time of the year in five years. Most of them report a 50 per cent, increase of sales over 1896. All of them unite in anying that the present conditions demonstrate the return of good times. The express companies also report a hig increase in their business.

The Schenectady locomotive works are running at their full capacity, the manager declaring to-day that the business has been the best this fall since 1892. The General Electric Company also reports an increasing business. The company also reports an increasing business. The company also reports an increasing business. The company also reports are increasing business, and that it will enlarge its works during the coming year. Contracting builders report a busy season and say that the outlook for next season is beyond anything seen here since 1890.

NEW TELEGRAPH FACILITIES. The Western Union Will Connect Its Line

CITY OF MEXICO, Dec. 28.-The Mexican Telegraph and Cable Company and the Western Union Company have secured a concession from the Government to connect their wires in the United States with the Federal lines at Nogales, Juarez, and Laredo. Through despatches can thus be sent by Government wires to the United States and all points abroad. Official messages to or from the Mexican Ministers and Consuls in the United States will be transmitted at 50 per cent. discount from the tariff.

The Western Union will pay 15 per cent. of its receipts to the Government for the franchise and guarantees that this payment shall not be less than \$20,000 gold semi-annually. The cable company also pays the same percentage, guaranteing at least \$10,000 gold semi-annually. The Central and South American Cableis not included in this. The Government agrees to send all its foreign despatches by these two lines. States and all points abroad. Official messages

ticularly state that our only desire is to gratify the American public, which refuses to he was sincere in his wish to retire. We believe he has reached the highest pinnacle of fame as a boxer, and his promise to his wife was sincere. I have reasoned with her for weeks to get her to relieve him of this promise, and pointed out the fact that while he worked hard for years be cannot now afford to allow a lot of stiffs to claim his honors.

"We recognize the further fact that the cry a 'champion who won't fight' came to us with the title, and that we are bound to defend this title so long as we are able to enter the ring. Positively, however, this will be our last conteswhether we win or lose.

"The conditions we make will be regarded as easonable by any fair-minded sportsman. We asked that Corbett shall indicate his sincerity for his fight by meeting at least one of the bes men whom Fitzsimmons has defeated-Maher. Sharkey or Choynski will do. We place Corbet in the same class as the others. Fitz has beaten

and entitled to no more consideration. "As for McCoy, we are willing to admit that he is a clever young fellow and likely at some time to be a prominent factor in the middle weight class. He has shown nothing remarkable in his ring career. Defeats of Ryan and Creedon are the sole basis of his challenge, and Fitzsimmons defeated Creedon in two rounds. If McCoy will defeat Choynski we will consider

his challenge.
"The only other condition is that the fights shall be for \$10,000 a side and the largest purse and to a finish. Fitzsimmons can get to 156 pounds within five weeks, which weight I doubt if McCoy can make. The latter's contest with Creedon was at catch weights, so that Mc Coy has no claim on the middleweight cham-

"One thing is certain-we will not be forced or bulldozed into accepting a fight. I tell you in all sincerity that there is no desire to evade a contest by the conditions imposed. We do not even resort to the childish talk, ' Fight this man and I'll fight you.' We do not believe that Cor bett is sincere, remembering that it took five years to draw him into the ring with Fitzsim-

bett is sincere, remembering that it took five years to draw him into the ring with Fitzsimmons. He can easily get on with Maher or Sharkey and show his sincerity.

"As regards McCoy, we treat his challenge from a purely business and fistic standpoint. There would not be any interest in a contest with him, and the betting would favor Fitz to such an extent that the purse and side stake would be all Fitzsimmons would win. Surely he would get no credit for a victory. In a year or so, when McCoy has done something, he would be more popular, as having a chance to win. We retuse positively to have their names linked with that of Fitzsimmons in order to boost their reputations or finances."

Cincinnati, Dec. 28.—Ex-Champion Jim Corbett was seen at the Burnett House to-night regarding Julian's latest ultimatum. "Fitzsimmons's life is being made miserable daily by the public, Julian and all those directly interested in his success," said Corbett, "Principally is he harassed by the public with the declaration that he is afraid to meet me again. I know that he is not making money. The sporting public of this country and England consider that I lost the title of champion solely through an accident. I know that I can whip Fitz, and he knows it, too, therefore he won't fight me if he can help it. He still, I have no doubt, feels some of the effects of the drubbing I gave to him at Carson. I pounded him about the body, over the kidneys, and in other places in a way to leave lasting reminders. I punched him hard, harder than I did Sullivan. By taking up any one clee I would be running the risk of interference by the authorities, and ail that for no possible benefit to myself. If I should whip fifty other champions Fitz would be getting the reputation in the meantime, not Corbett. For me to fight Maher and the rest would be like a big wholesaler retiring to a peanut stail. I don't have to fight, and I will fight no one but Fitz. I have kept my head and my money, too, and I can now do whatever I want to. I shall see Fitz in Chi

Let me conduct details. I am on to something. In answer to a question Corbett said with a an answer to a question Corbett said with a knowing smile: "Yes, Dan Stuart is also in New York, now. He and Billy may have something up their sleeve regarding a match with Fitz that I know nothing of. I will agree to give \$1,000 to Fitz the minute he enters the ring with me, and another \$1,000 if he stays before me ten rounds."

It was with a good deal of pleasure and sur-

It was with a good deal of pleasure and surprise that the sporting public in this city received the announcement yesterday that Bob Fitzsimmons had concluded to fight again and accept "Kid" McCoy's defi as a starter. The majority were of the opinion that Fitz did the proper thing by calling the "Kid's" challenge so quickly, and hoped that something more than mere talk will come of the procedure. McCoy was seen by a Sun reporter in his dressing room at Koster & Bial's has hight. The youthful champion was in glowing spirits, and seemed to be highly elated because Fitzsimmons had consented to fight him.

"As soon as I learned what he said," said McCoy, "I communicated with my brother Homer and had him draw up a check for \$1,000 to bind a match. The check is certified, so, you see, there are no strings on it; nor can my sincerity in the matter be doubled. I deposited the money with a local sport, and I have authorized my brother to make a match for me, I suppose Fitz thought I was bluffing. I sin't built that way, let me tell you. Anything I say I generally do, and no one can accuse me of crawling.

"Fitzsimmons says that he will pick out a man for me to fight. Let him. I am open to meet all comers, for I am confident I know how to hold my own. Fitz also says after I beat the men he selects he will take me on. I want to fight him first, but I won't raise any objection if he wants me to tackle some one else. I wonder who it could be whom he wishes me to take on 1" asked the Kid.

"Terhaps it is Choynski," suggested the reporter. "Would you fight him!"

"Why, yes," aid McCoy, with emphasis. "I am after them all in my class—that is, at 15s pounds. If Choynski can sy opponents. Any



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FITZ AGREES TO FIGHT.

JULIAN SAIS THE CHAMPION WILL

MEET CORBETT AND M'COY.

He Specifies Certain Conditions Which Mens
Be Compiled With—The Young Middleweight is savited to Befont Choymani First
—Corbett and McCoy Give Their Views.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—It is authoritatively announced by Martin Julian, manager for Fitzsimmons, that the champion will, in all probabillity, again enter the fistic arons. It will be,
however, only to fight Corbett and "Kid"
McCoy, and on terms that Fitz and his manager
dictate.

"In announcing the return of Fitzsimmons to
the arona," said Julian, "I wish you would particularly state that our only desire is to gratify
the American public, which refuses to believe

and the who wants my game is perfectly welcome to
come along and battle with me.

"I really don't know, but I want it understood that I will have my say about naming a
proper date, I don't really think Bob will want
to go into the ring with me. Before next summer. It wouldn't be exactly consistent with
mer. It wouldn't

went amiss.

Al Smith, when told that Fitz had decided to fight M Coy instead of Corbett, waxed indignant and said: "That is very funny. Why don't he fight Jim? Is it because he is afraid? He may be doing as he thinks is right, but I doubt it. McCoy and Fitzsinmons ought to put up a great mill, but who will win I am not prepared to say. I have my own opinion, though. It will be a great contest, and I hope the best man wins. I have still confidence in Corbett and will back him again against Fitz for any amount."

THE FIGHT A DISAPPOINTMENT. Everkardt and Daly Box a Tame Bout of Ten Rounds.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 28 .- Jack Everhardt of this city and Jack Daly of Wilmington, Del., fought ten rounds to-night in the arena of the Tulane A. C. Some 2,000 persons were present, and they were equally divided as to the merits of the men. The bout had been advertised as a twenty-round affair, but the authorities intervened and declined to allow more than ter

rounds. Before the contest it was announced that the fight would either result in a knockout or a draw, as Everhardt declined to box ten rounds for a decision. Daly was seconded by San Fitzpatrick, his manager, and Dan Creedon. Everhardt's handlers were his brother, Charles, and Walter Griffin, who killed Jack Cummings in the same ring on the first night the club opened.

the same ring on the first night the club opened.

The contest was a tame one, both men resorting to clinching after each blow. Daly was in better condition than Everhardt, and was able to stand the stomach punches he received in several of the rounds. The only fighting that took place in the last round was when both men mixed matters, Daly having a shade the better of it. There was not a clean blow passed during the contest, and the crowd left the ringside disguisted. The decision was a draw.

Just before the contest started Referee Duffy read a telegram from Kid McPartland chullenging the winner.

BUFFALO, Dec. 28 .- Justice Woodward handed down his decision this afternoon in the matter of the legality of the boxing contests held in this city by incorporated clubs. He holds that the spirit and intent of the law have been violated by the Live Stock Exchange and other clubs and corporations, which have held these bouts for pecuniary benefit. He holds the two fighters in \$100 bonds to keep the peace.

Louisville Baseball Club Affairs.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 28 .- The annual meeting o the stockholders of the Louisville Baseball Company was held to-night. The financial state ment was the best in several seasons, showing a profit during the past season, though a deficit still exists since the formation of a twelve-club league.
The old Board of Directors was reclected as

The old Board of Directors was reëlected as follows: Thomas Hunt Stuckey, H. C. Pulliam, Charles P. Dehler, Zack Phelps, Charles Richie, Barney Dreyfus and Cashier Hammer. The directors reelected H. C. Pulliam President and Dr. Stuckey, who has been for a year only a director, was elected Vice-President.

Barney Drey us, who has been Scretary-Treasurer for years, was succeeded by Charles P. Dehler. Fred C. Clarke was again chosen manager. It was resolved to make no more experiments in players, and with the exception of a new catcher the team will not be changed.

Montclair's Hockey Team Defeats Baltimore

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 28 .- At the new Wes Side Ice Palace skating rink to-night the crack hockey team from the Montclair A. C. of Montclair, N. J., defeated the Maryland A. C. team from Baltimore by a score of 1 goal to 0.

The Marylands, who are champions of the Baltimore Hockey League, were outplayed at every point. Max Hornfeck scored the goal for Montclair.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., Dec. 28 .- A wreck occurred on the New Jersey Central Railroad a few hun dred feet east of the North avenue station, in this city, just before 3 o'clock this morning. A brake chain on a coal gondola in the middle of a train of fourteen cars going west was dragging and a moment later they went tearing down the steep embankment, across East Third street and into the fence surrounding the Friends' meeting house, built in 1777. A tramp who was riding on one of the wrecked cars held on for dear life until the cars plunged into the fence, when he jumped off, apparently uninjured, and

ran away. SMITH M. WEED BEATEN.

Comptroller Roberts Not Enjoined from Taking His Adirondack Land.

ALBANY, Dec. 28.-Supreme Court Justice McLaughlin at Port Henry has denied the application of Smith M. Weed and Benton Turne for a temporary injunction to prevent State Comptroller Roberts from taking any proceedings under the Malby law to interfere with their ings under the Maiby law to interfere with their title to several thousand acres of Adirondack land in township 23.

The State Comptroller has commenced proceedings under the Maiby law to recover for the State thousands of acres of lauds, the title to which became vested in individuals through illegal cancellations of tax sales by preceding State Comptrollers. The land affected by this decision is included in the proceedings instituted by Comptroller Roberts. Justice McLaughlin, in denving the application, declarate the Maiby law to be constitutional, and that the applications have ample remedy through a writ of

applicants have ample remedy through a writ of certiorari should they consider the Comptroller's action prejudicial to their rights. A Central Switch Tower Burned Out. ALBANY, Dec. 28,-The signal tower in the yard of the New York Central and Hudson fire this morning. Thirty switches were operated from the tower which are now operated by band. It will take some days to rebuild the tower. If the machinery is ruined the loss will be \$5,000.

Gov. Black Finishing His Message.

ALBANY, Dec. 28 .- Gov. Black was not at th executive chamber to-day. He remained at his home in Troy, putting the final touches on his annual message, which will be transmitted to the Legislature next Wednesday.

MAIL BAG LOST OR STOLEN.

It Contained 200 Letters for Persons in East New York.

A mail bag containing 200 letters for per sons in East New York was lost or stolen yes terday in transit from Jamaica to Brooklyn. The bag was put aboard the 6 o'clock train The bag was put aboard the 6 o'clock train from Jamaica last night. It should have been thrown off at station E. at Pennsylvania and Atlantic avenues, Brooklyn.

The clerk on the mail car says he did throw it off. The clerk at the sub-station says that he looked for it just as soon as the train came in, but that he didn't see it thrown off. The police of the Liberty avenue station were notified and detectives were detailed to hunt for the bag.

Academy Principals in Conference.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 28.-The thirteenth annual holiday conference of the Associated Academic Principals of the State of New York opens in this city to-morrow, and will continue two days. Among the subjects for consideration and action will be the improvements the preparation made by the grades for admission to the high schools; the rearrangement of high school curriculum with recard to the relative importance of Latin, Greek, and the sciences; the certificate system for college entrance, and other similar topics. To morrow evening President Woolsey M. Stryker of Hamilton College will address a joint meeting of the academic principals and the State grammar school principals who meet here contemporaneously. To night a reception was given the 300 delegates to the conference by the faculty of Syracuse University at Crouse College for Women. opens in this city to-morrow, and will continue

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 28.- The Philadelphia Exposition Company was chartered to-day to conduct a national exhibition of American manufactures in this city in October 1898.



A frock coat you must have if you care to be well and correctly dressed.

It's a coat that lasts for years, if your figure keeps the samestyle changes little.

Coat and waistcoat, \$20 to \$35. We don't make to order, but we make to fit.

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THE OVERMAN'S FAILURE. CARS RUSH DOWN AN EMBANKMENT. Close Up of the Bleycle Company Due to the Lack of a Reserve Fund.

They Make Their Way Across a Platofield The announcement of the fallure of the Overman Wheel Company created surprise in cycling trade circles yesterday and led to a feeling of distrust in relation to the standing of other firms. The company has been engaged in the manufacture of bicycles since 1883 and gained a widespread reputation through the quality of its output. Until recent years the along the tracks and as a switch was passed over the chain caught in a frog. There was a sudden jerk and the car went high in the air.

Instantly a dozen cars were piled up tog ther and a moment later they went tearing down the untry. The factory at Chicopee Falls, Mass is one of the largest and best equipped of the kind in America, and the firm has always been regarded as one of the strongest in the trade.

W. C. Overman, who is in charge of the local store, ascribes the failure to the fact that in recent years the profits have been applied to the enlargement of the factory. The conversion of so much money into the plant affected the working capital and forced the firm into its present position. He expresses confidence that the existing difficulties will be adjusted and the business continued. A plunge by the firm into the manufacture of general sporting goods several years ago, it is reported, has been responsible for the less of a large amount of money. It is not known whether the stock of wheels will be placed upon the market to satisfy the creditors, but if such action is taken it is not thought that it will affect the price of high-grade wheels. A man in the trade ventured the opinion yesterday that more failures will follow early in the new year, as the bievele market is bound to narrow down to about six or eight big houses. The strain upon some of the firms, who have been striving to keep affont during the last year, has become too burdensome to last much longer. Signification, Mass., Dec. 28.—The financial difficulty and closing of the Overman Wheel Company's shops has caused distress and anxiety here, owing to the throwing of 1,000 men out of employment. The National Hide and Leather Henk of Boston to-day filed an attachment of \$40,000 lagainst the company and F. A. Poster & Co. of Boston filed an attachment of \$40,000 lagainst the company and F. A. Poster & Co. of Boston filed an attachment of \$40,000 lagainst the company and F. A. Poster & Co. of Boston filed an attachment of \$40,000 lagainst the company and F. A. Poster & Co. of Boston filed an attachment of \$40,000 lagainst the company and F. A. Poster & Co. of Boston filed an attachment of \$40,000 lagainst the company and F. A. Poster & Co. of Boston filed an attachment of \$40,000 lagainst the company and F. A. Poster & Co. of Boston filed an attachment of \$40,000 lagainst the company and F. A. Poster & Co. of Boston filed an attachment of \$40,000 lagainst the company and F. A. Poster & Co. of store, ascribes the failure to the fact that in recent years the profits have been applied to the

COMPLAIN OF A MAGISTRATE. Merchants Seek to Get Gerrish and Schnadig Indicted for Swindling.

Melville F. Frame, an importer doing business at 11 Broadway, headed a delegation of west side merchants that called upon District Attorney Olcott yesterday to complain of Magistrate Meade, who, Mr. Frame said, had used bad judgment in releasing Frank L. Gerrish and Louis M. Schnadig, arrested on a charge of

swindling. "These two men," said Mr. Frame, "obtained over \$20,000 worth of goods from downtown merchants, pretending to sell the goods on commission, but really getting them, selling them, and keeping the money they obtained for the eroods." and account of the part of the property of the prisoners. They wanted Gerrish and Schnadig Indicted. Mr. Olcott promised to investigate. The delegation said they represented the Brown Scap Company, the Whitney Glass Works, and the firm of John Osborn & Co.

A HIGH RECORD.

Some people still talk as if a gas broiler were

a sort of plaything. It is all very well for light housekeeping, or for a dabbler in cooking to housekeeping, or for a dabbler in cooking to amuse herself with, but for cooking on a large scale, they say, it is out of the question. This is to ignore results put on record again and again. In England, where the use of gas for cooking has long been established and popular, whole regiments are cooked for by means of gas appliances, and the work done with more despatch and satisfaction, and at a much lower cost, than by coal. But we need not go abroad to show how cooking by wholesale is entirely feasible on gas brollers. The Astor House often has an enormous transient custom in its wellfeasible on gas broilers. The Astor House often has an enormous transient custom in its well-known restaurant on holidays. On Columbus Bay, when the city was crowded with people from out-of-town, over two thousand pounds of chops and steaks were broiled to order in the Astor House. And they were all broiled on the combination gas broiler in use in that latel. That they were broiled to perfection goes without asyling. But the great quantity turned out to meet the great demand shows that the gas broiler is no mere by, but a great practical, in isbor-saving invention, capable of broiling essential to the control of t